GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3484
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2015
MULTIPLE ENTRY VISA
Puttaraju Shri C.S.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan are working towards a mechanism to issue multiple entry visa for businessmen as part of reducing non-traffic barriers for greater trade;

(b) if so, the benefits likely to be accrued to both the countries as a result thereof; and

(c) the time by which the issue of such visas are likely to be started?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) to (c) India−Pakistan trade has not reached its full potential on account of trade restrictions imposed by Pakistan including not conferring Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India.
A new Visa Agreement between India and Pakistan was signed on 8 September 2012 under which a separate category of 'Business Visa' has been introduced which significantly liberalizes the bilateral Visa regime for genuine business persons of the two countries; the 'Business Visa' provision of the agreement was operationalised from December 2012 itself.